

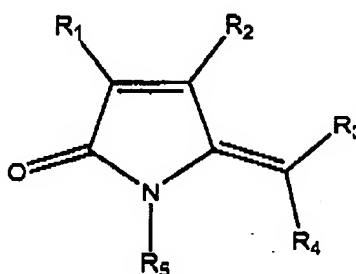
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-141 (cancelled)

142 (currently amended). A method for preparing a compound of formula III:



III

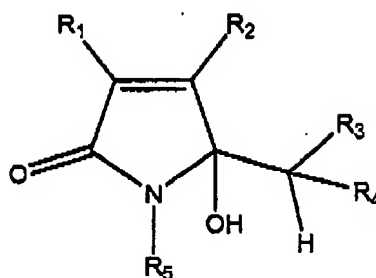
wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, ~~or~~ substituted alkyl ~~or~~ and unsubstituted alkyl;

R₃ and R₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, hydroxyl, substituted alkyl ~~or~~ and unsubstituted alkyl, wherein at least one of R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ is halogen; and

R₅ is selected from the group consisting of H, substituted ~~or~~ alkyl, unsubstituted alkyl, substituted ~~or~~ aryl, unsubstituted aryl, ~~or~~ substituted ~~or~~ arylalkyl and unsubstituted arylalkyl; wherein the method comprises the steps of

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(a) providing a compound of formula II:



wherein

R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen or, substituted or alkyl and unsubstituted alkyl;

R₃ and R₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, hydroxy or, substituted or alkyl and unsubstituted alkyl; and

R₅ is selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or alkyl, unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or aryl, unsubstituted aryl or, substituted or arylalkyl and unsubstituted arylalkyl; and

(b) dehydration of the compound of formula II to provide the compound of formula III.

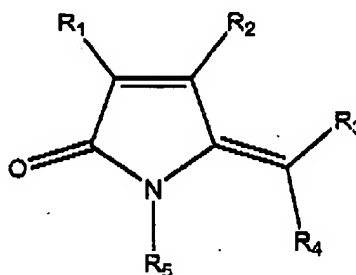
143 (canceled).

144 (previously presented). A method according to claim 142, wherein the dehydration is carried out in the presence of a dehydrating agent.

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145 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 144, wherein the dehydrating agent is selected from the group consisting of phosphorus pentoxide, silica gel, molecular sieves, alumina, acidic resins and polymers, phosphorus oxychloride, acetic anhydride, N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC), trifluoroacetic acid, sulfuric acid, trifluoroacetic anhydride, and trifluorosulfonic acid anhydride (triflic anhydride).

146 (currently amended). A compound of formula III:



III

Wherein

R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen or, substituted or C₄-C₆ alkyl and unsubstituted C₄-C₆ alkyl;

R₃ and R₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, substituted or alkyl and unsubstituted alkyl, wherein at least one of R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ is halogen; and

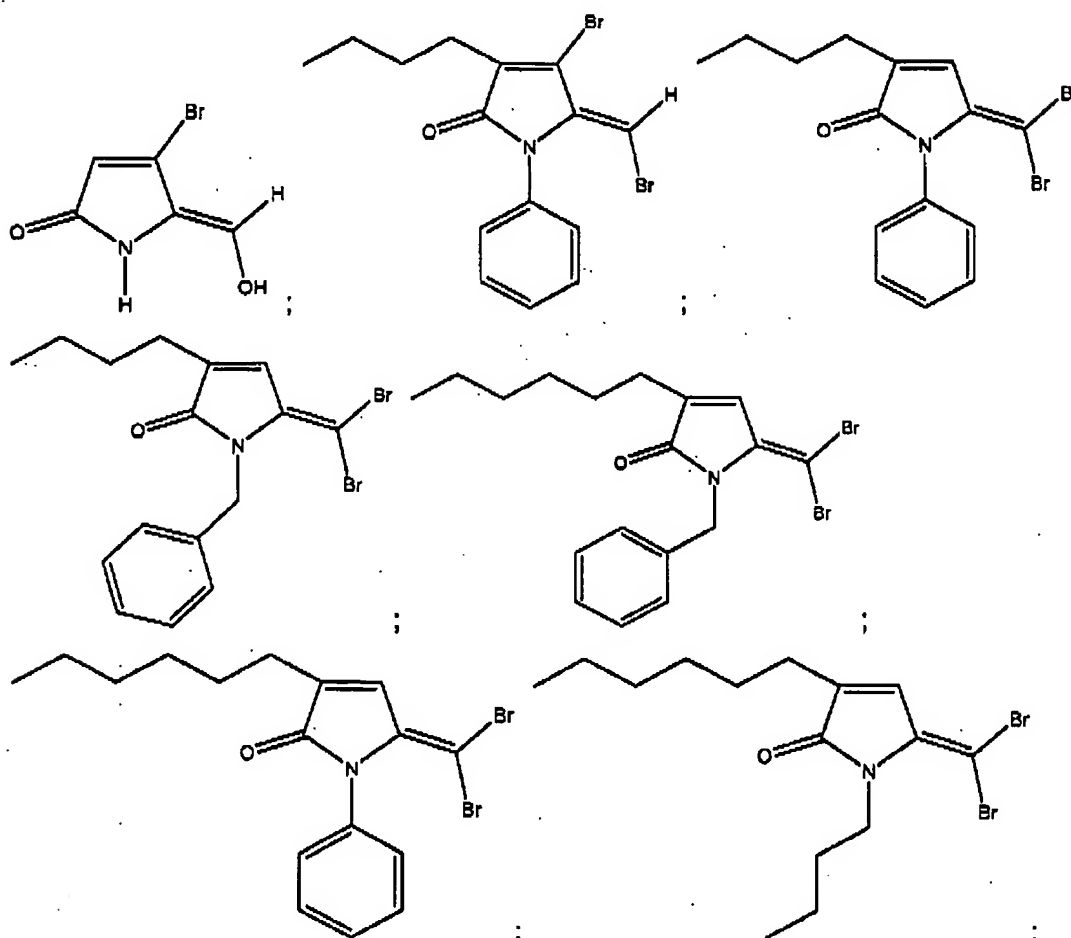
R₅ is selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or alkyl, unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or aryl, unsubstituted aryl or, substituted or arylalkyl and unsubstituted

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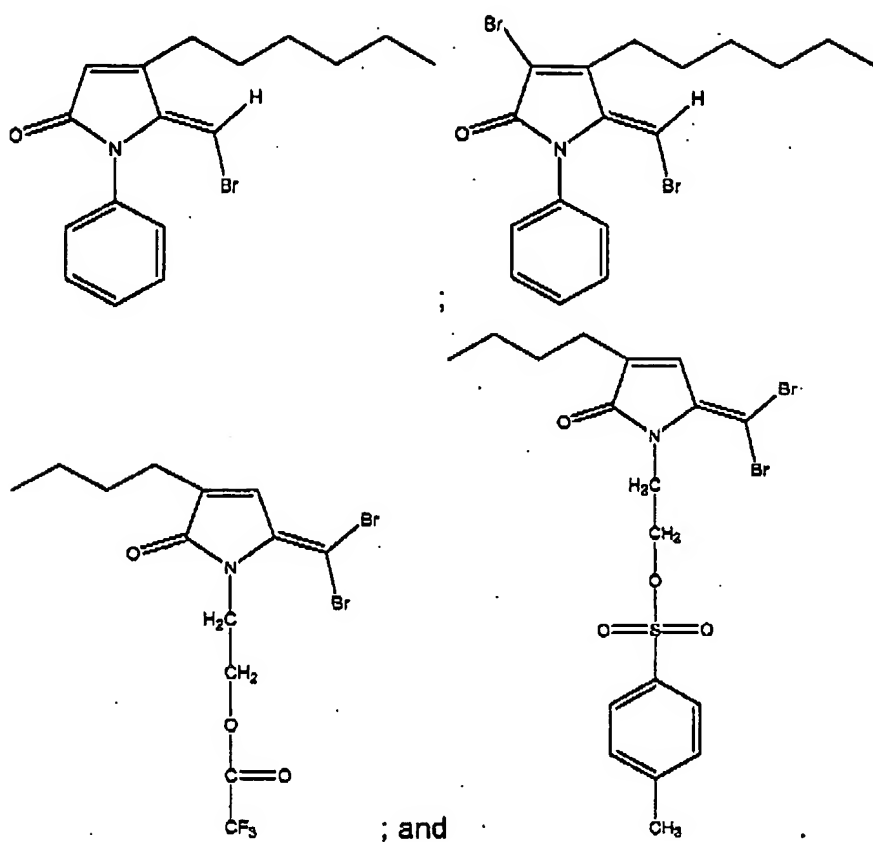
arylalkyl.

147 (canceled).

148 (previously presented). A compound selected from the group
consisting of:



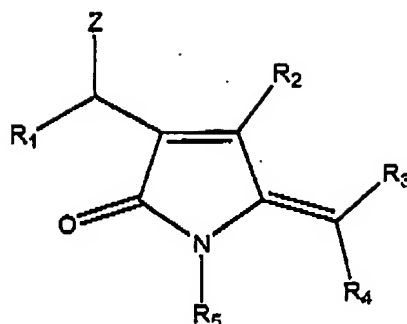
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149-157 (canceled).

158 (currently amended). A compound of formula (VI):

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VI

wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen or substituted or alkyl and unsubstituted alkyl;

R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, hydroxyl or substituted or alkyl and unsubstituted alkyl;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or alkyl, unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or aryl, unsubstituted aryl or substituted or arylalkyl and unsubstituted arylalkyl; and

Z is selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, $OC(O)alkyl$ and $OC(O)alkylC(O)OH$.

159-235 (canceled).

236 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 142 wherein halogen is bromine.

237 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 142 wherein aryl is phenyl.

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238 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 142 wherein arylalkyl is benzyl.

239 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 142 wherein R₅ is alkyl substituted with -OC(O)CF₃ or -OSO₂-*p*-toluene.

240 (withdrawn). A compound according to claim 146 wherein halogen is bromine.

241 (withdrawn). A compound according to claim 146 wherein aryl is phenyl.

242 (withdrawn). A compound according to claim 146 wherein arylalkyl is benzyl.

243 (withdrawn). A compound according to claim 146 wherein R₅ is alkyl substituted with -OC(O)CF₃ or -OSO₂-*p*-toluene.

244 (withdrawn). A compound according to claim 158 wherein halogen is bromine.

245 (withdrawn). A compound according to claim 158 wherein aryl is phenyl.

246 (withdrawn). A compound according to claim 158 wherein arylalkyl is

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benzyl.

247 (withdrawn). A compound according to claim 158 wherein Z is –
OC(O)CH₃.

248 (withdrawn). A compound according to claim 158 wherein Z is –
OC(O)CH₂C(O)OH.

249 (previously presented). A compound selected from the group
consisting of:

